

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

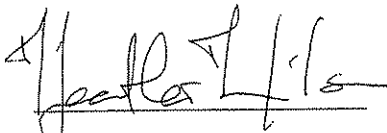

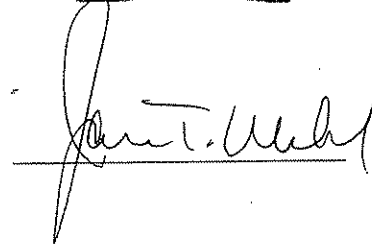
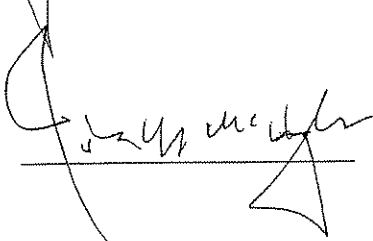
Madam Speaker,

On September 30, 2007, authorization for the State Children's Health Insurance Program will expire, putting at risk the health insurance coverage of six million children. While the House has passed a controversial Medicare and SCHIP reauthorization bill largely along party lines, the Senate has passed bipartisan SCHIP reauthorization legislation without Medicare provisions. We urge you to take up the bipartisan Senate SCHIP bill to reauthorize the program before it expires at the end of the month.

The Senate legislation would reauthorize the program for five years and increase the authorized funding for the program by \$35 billion over that time. The funding would fully fund current program levels and allow for the enrollment of more eligible uninsured children into the program. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the Senate bill would decrease the number of uninsured children by 3.2 million.

We would be supportive of consideration of the Senate SCHIP bill and believe it is the best vehicle for extending the program expeditiously. The health of the nation's children is too important to delay.

Sincerely,

Jana Emerson

Wayne T. Gilchrist

Ray Regula

Tom Davis

Ed R. Kutt

Jim Pantel

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